

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10864 01 OF 04 191238Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
IO-13 SNM-02 DEAE-00 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 MCT-01 /072 W
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O R 190842Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2298

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 4 BANGKOK 10864

CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, ASEAN, US, TH

SUBJ: TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY THAI DEPUTY SUPREME
COMMANDER KRIANGSAK MAY16

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY USIS OF
PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THAI DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER
KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN AT DON MUANG AIRPORT MAY 16 ON HIS RETURN
FROM A TWO-WEEKS' VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

KRIANGSAK: MY MAIN OBJECTIVE IN GOING TO THE U.S. THIS TIME
WAS TO HAVE A THOROUGH MEDICAL CHECKUP. I FIRST WENT FOR
MEDICAL TREATMENT TO WALTER REED HOSPITAL IN 1960, AND I
HAD BEEN GOING THERE FOR REGULAR CHECKUPS EVERY YEAR. BUT
DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS I DID NOT GO THERE FOR A MEDICAL
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 10864 01 OF 04 191238Z

CHECKUP. THE HOSPITAL WROTE REMINDING ME THAT T OUGHT TO
GO AND HAVE A MEDICAL CHECKUP AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR. I
THEREFORE DECIDED TO GO TAT ONCE, BUT THE MEDICAL CHECK-
UP TOOK AS LONG AS 7-8 DAYS, INSTEAD OF 2-3 DAYS AS IN
THE PAST WHEN I HAD GONE TO THE HOSPITAL ONCE A YEAR.
THE RESULT OF MY MEDICAL CHECKUP WAS POSITIVE, AND I
FEEL QUITE ALL RIGHT. THIS WILL, I HOPE, ENABLE ME TO

CONTINUE PERFORMING MY DUTIES FOR OUR BELOVED COUNTRY
AND FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.

IN ADDITION, MY TRIP ABORAD THIS TIME ENABLED ME TO
MEET MANY OLD FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES I WORKED WITH IN
THE PAST.

REPORTER: DID YOU HAVE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO MEET HIGH-
LEVEL AMERICAN OFFICIALS ?

KRIANGSAK: I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO THE U.S. VIA
EUROPE, STOPPING OVER IN ENGLAND 2-3 NIGHTS, THEN PASS-
ING THROUGH COPENHAGEN, FROM WHERE I FLEW DIRECT TO
AMERICA. DURING MY TRIP I MET THAI WHO CAME TO MEET
ME. THEY ARE NATURALLY WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN
OUR COUNTRY, SO I TRIED MY BEST TO ANSWER THEIR QUES-
TIONS AND GIVE THEM EXPLANATIONS TO DISPEL ANY WORRIES
OR SUSPECIONS THEY MIGHT HAVE. THAT DOES NOT MEAN
THAT I CALLED MEETINGS OF THAI WHEREVER I STOPPED,
BUT I TALKED TO THEM WHEN THEY CAME TO MEET ME OR
WHEN I MET THEM BY CHANCE.

WHILE I WAS IN ENGLAND, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET LORD NORTHCLIFFE, A PROMINENT BRITISH NEWSPAPER
MAGNATE. WE HAD DINNER TOGETHER, AND DURING CONVERSA-
TION I GAVE HIM ALL INFORMATION HE DESIRED REGARDING THE
SITUATION IN THAILAND.

WHEN I REACHED NEW YORK I MET MR. LINEN, PRESIDENT
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 10864 01 OF 04 191238Z

OF "TIME MAGAZINE." HE GAVE A LUNCHEON IN MY HONOR, TO
WHICH HE HAD INVITED OVER TEN PROMINENT PERSONS IN THAT
CITY. MR. LINEN AND HIS OTHER GUESTS ARE INTERESTED IN
THAILAND, AND THEY PUT MANY PERTINENT QUESTIONS TO ME.

IN MY ANSWERS, I ENDEAVORED TO GIVE THEM AS GOOD AN
UNDERSTANDING AS POSSIBLE OF OUR COUNTRY.

HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE SUBJECT AMERICANS FEEL SPECIAL
INTEREST IN AT PRESENT, AND IT SEEMS TO BE ON THE TIP
OF EVERYBODY'S TONGUE. BUT IT IS A SUBJECT CONCERNING
THE INTERANL AFFAIRS OF THE U.S. ITSELF.

I WENT TO THE U.S. ON PERSONAL BUSINESS. I ORIGIN-
ALLY ASKED FOR THREE WEEKS' LEAVE BUT MY MEDICAL CHECK-
UP TOOK LONGER THAN I HAD EXPECTED SO I RETURNED A
FEW DAYS LATER THAN SCHEDULED.

IN ADDITION TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT PROVIDING

ME WITH A THOROUGH MEDICAL CHECKUP, I WAS MOST FORTUNATE IN MEETING SEVERAL KEY MEN IN THE PRESENT AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE HOLBROOKE, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PENTAGON, OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AND THE CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. I ALSO VISITED THE CIA. I MET AND HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS PERSONS, INCLUDING MANY OLD FRIENDS. I FURTHERMORE MET AND ACTED AS PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN WITH THAI I MET IN NEW YORK, IN WASHINGTON, IN FLORIDA, IN LOS ANGELES. I DIDN'T STOP OVER IN HAWAII, SAN FRANCISCO, AND HONG KONG, AS I HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED, BECAUSE MY MEDICAL CHECKUP TOOK A FEW DAYS LONGER THAN I HAD EXPECTED.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO INFORM YOU OF MY IMPRESSIONS ON THE FEELINGS OF THE U.S. TOWARD THAILAND, AS GATHERED
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PAGE 04 BANGKO 10864 01 OF 04 191238Z

FROM CONVERSATIONS I HAD WITH AMERICANS. THEY WERE PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS, NOT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARE IN HIGH OFFICIAL POSITIONS, INCLUDING CABINET MEMBERS, UNDER-SECRETARIES, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO INFORM YOU WORD FOR WORD OF WHAT THEY SAID, BUT I WISH TO GIVE YOU MY IMPRESSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ON SUBJECTS WE TALKED ABOUT ON WHICH WE ARE INTERESTED.

FIRST, THE U.S. IS STILL KEENLY INTERESTED IN VARIOUS NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE DEMOCRACIES. IT WAS BELIEVED, AFTER THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND AFTER THE WATERGATE ISSUE WAS OVER, THAT AMERICA WOULD LOSE INTEREST IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, THAT I WOULD

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10864 02 OF 04 191307Z
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 4 BANGKOK 10864

CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY

CONCENTRATE ON OTHER PARTS
THE WORLD. BUT IN
REALITY, IT STILL FEELS KEEN INTEREST IN COUNTRIES OF
THIS REGION, AND I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS IS MY
IMPRESSION I GATHERED FROM CONVERSATIONS I HAD
WITH AMERICANS IN GENERAL WHILE I WAS IN THE U.S.

SECOND, AND OBSERVATION I MADE FROM CONVERSATIONS IS
THAT THE U.S. IS STILL CONCENTRATING ON PRESERVING ITS
MIGHT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. THIS IS CONFIRMED BY
AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE
TO THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL, AS WELL AS BY STATEMENTS
MADE IN CONGRESS BY OTHER PROMINENT AMERICANS. IN THEIR
CONVERSATIONS WITH ME, THEY AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT THE
U.S. WILL CONTINUE PRESERVING ITS MIGHT IN ASIA AND IN
THE PACIFIC.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 10864 02 OF 04 191307Z

REPORTER: WAS IT CYRUS VANCE WHO SAID THAT?

KRIANGSAK: YES. HE MADE THE STATEMENT IN THE
SECURITY COUNCIL.

THIRD, AN OBSERVATION I MADE IS THAT THE ATTITUDE
OF THE U.S. INDICATES ITS INTENTION TO
GIVE ECONOMIC
AND MILITARY AID TO THAILAND, EVIDENTLY BECAUSE IT
FEELS THAT THAI STABILITY AND STRENGTH WILL HELP
STABILIZE SOUTHEAST ASIA IN GENERAL. MY VIEW FROM
OBSERVATIONS I MADE, IS THAT AMERICA WILL NOT CUT US
ADRIFT, EVEN THOUGH THIS YEAR MIGHT BE THE LAST YEAR
IN WHICH IT WILL GIVE US GRANT AID. AT FIRST, SOME

PEOPLE, AS CAN BE SEEN FROM REPORTS, FEARED WE WOULD BE FACED WITH PROBLEMS. MY PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM WHATSOEVER REGARDING THE \$8 MILLION GRANT AID--MILITARY AID. I, HOWEVER, DO NOT KNOW FIGURES AND FACTS REGARDING ECONOMIC AID. I ONLY KNOW FACTS AND DETAILS ON MILITARY AID. EVEN SHOULD GRANT AID COME TO AN END, MILITARY AID IN THE FORM OF CREDIT WILL MOST PROBABLY BE CONTINUED. I TOLD THEM THAT WE KNOW FULL WELL THAT THE U.S. ITSELF IS FACED WITH MANY PROBLEMS; THEREFORE, THE EXTENT OF AID IT GIVES US, OR SHOULD IT NOT GIVE US ANY AID AT ALL, WE WOULD NOT MIND--THAT IT IS FRIENDSHIP AND THE DESIRE TO HELP ONE ANOTHER THAT REALLY COUNTS.

REPORTER: WHAT IS YOUR VIEW, OR YOUR IMPRESSION FROM CONVERSATIONS YOU HAD, REGARDING THE PROPOSAL OF A SUB-COMMITTEE FOR GRANT AID TO BE CHANGED TO AID IN THE FORM OF CREDITS?

KRIANGSAK: IT HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF THE U.S. FROM THE VERY START GRADUALLY TO PHASE DOWN GRANT AID. YOU MOST PROBABLY REMEMBER THAT THE U.S. GAVE US AS MUCH AS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 10864 02 OF 04 191307Z

30-40 MILLION DOLLARS AT THE START; THEN IT WENT UP TO \$60 MILLION, AND THE HIGH FIGURE WAS \$80 MILLION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. SINCE THE END OF THE WAR, IT HAS BEEN REDUCED STEADILY, TO \$36 MILLION IN SOME YEARS, AND DOWN TO \$8 MILLION THIS YEAR. IT IS TRUE FRIENDSHIP THAT COUNTS. IF OUR FRIEND IS FACED WITH PROBLEMS, IT DOES MATTER IF HE CANNOT HELP US. WE MUST HELP OURSELVES, NOT ASK FOR AID FOREVER. SINCE WE KNOW THAT OUR FRIEND IS FACED WITH PROBLEMS OF HIS OWN, TOO, WOULD IT NOT BE UGLY TO CONTINUE ASKING HIM FOR AID? FRIENDSHIP IS OF FAR GREATER IMPORTANCE.

FOUR, MY OBSERVATIONS OF STATEMENTS MADE IN CONVERSATIONS ALSO SHOW THAT THE U.S. IS STILL KEENLY INTERESTED IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND IT HONORS ITS COMMITMENTS TO COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION. I ASKED OUTRIGHT WHAT COMMITMENTS AMERICA HAS UNDER SEATO, AND THEY ASSERTED THAT THE U.S. WILL ALWAYS HONOR ITS COMMITMENTS; BECAUSE THE MANILA PACT IS STILL IN FORCE. (PORTION OF TRANSCRIPT INAUDIBLE AT THIS POINT) I DON'T KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHETHER THEY MEANT BOTH COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, OR ONLY THE LATTER, IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BUT I BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE MORE KEENLY INTERESTED IN NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

FIVE, AS A RESULT OF THE SEMINAR HELD RECENTLY,

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THE U.S. IS READY AND WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THAILAND IN DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ECONOMY, AS WELL AS TO PROMOTE EVENNCLOSER AND BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THIS IS MY IMPRESSION, AFTER I EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET FOR VARIOUS UNDESIRABTF INCIDENTS THAT OCCURRED IN THAILAND DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS,EFORE OCTOBER 6, 1976. I SAID I HOPED THAT A NEW START WOULD BE MADE.

SIX, FROM CONVERSATIONS I HAD WITH MANY PROMINENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 BANGKO 10864 02 OF 04 191307Z

AMERICANS, I FEEL THAT THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN THE WAY SOME SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES HAVE COOPERATED IN ESTABLISHING ASEAN, ITS ACTIONS, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT IT SEEMS TO BE BECOMING EVER STRONGER AND MORE STABLE.

SEVEN, THE U.S. IS WILLING TO COME AND HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH ASEAN IN THE FUTURE. IT HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE GLAD TO COME AND HOLD CONSULTATIONS SOO I DON'T KNOW WHETHER JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND HAVE YET EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO COME AND HOLD CONSULTATIONS BTH ASEAN, IN ORDER TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THE FUTURE.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MAN IT WILL SEND REPRESENTATIVEYM SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND...

KRIANGSAK: AFTER THE ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING OF ITS SEVEN MEMBER NATIONS HAS BEEN HELD, THE U.S. WOULD BE GLAD TO TAKE PART IN CONSULTATIONS HELD. THIS STATEMENT COMES FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND WAS MADE DB MR. HOLBROOKE.

REPORTER: WILL IT SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE SAME SESSION WHICH PRIME MINISTERS OF THREE MEMBER

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10864 03 OF 04 191336Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
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UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 4 BANGKOK 10864

CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY
NATIONS WILL HOLD A MEETING WITH RUSSIAN BLOC?

KRIANGSAK: AS FAR AS WE HAVE ANNOUNCED ALREADY, AFTER THE
ASEAN MEETING IS OVER, TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS MIGHT BE
HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE END OF THE MEETING.

AS FAR AS I HAVE HEARD, AND FROM OBSERVATIONS I HAVE
MADE, THE U.S. IS READY TO SUPPORT REGIONAL COOPERATION
IN PROJECTS PLANNED BY ASEAN AND WHICH ARE ALREADY BEING
IMPLEMENTED. I UNDERSTAND THIS TO MEAN THAT SHOULD
VIETNAM, OR LAOS, OR CAMBODIA, OR BURMA, JOIN AND BECOME
MEMBERS OF ASEAN, OR SHOULD THEY ESTABLISH AN ASSOCIATION
OF THEIR OWN WITH CHARACTERISTICS SIMILAR TO ASEAN, FOR
THE SAKE OF PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND QUITE IN THIS
REGION, THE U.S. WOULD BE READY TO SUPPORT SUCH A PLAN.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE SAID?

REPORTER: COULD THE MEKONG DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BE USED
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 10864 03 OF 04 191336Z

AS AN EXAMPLE?

KRIANGSAK: NO. ASEAN HAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT CHARACTER-
ISTICS AND OBJECTIVES. IT IS COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER
NATIONS TO MAINTAIN PEACE, QUITET AND HAPPINESS IN THIS
REGION.

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN THE U.S. SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE
OF THE ASEAN SPIRIT...?

KRIANGSAK: YES, THE SPIRIT OF ASEAN. THAT IS MY INTER-

PRETATION OF AMERICA'S ATTITUDE.

EIGHT, I ASKED HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIALS DURING CONVERSATIONS WHAT SUBJECT THEY--THE U.S.-- FEEL KEENEST INTEREST IN AT PRESENT. THEY SAID THAT NARCOTICS PROBLEMS ARE UPPOERMOST IN THEIR MINDS ALL THE TIME BECAUSE THEY ARE THE MOST SERIOUS AND DANGEROUS PROBLEMS. THEY WENT ON TO PRAISE HIGHLY THE WAY THAT THAILAND IS DOING ITS UTMOST TO CARRY OUT ITS OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS TO COOPERATE IN SUPPRESSING DURG CULTIVATION AND DRUG TRAFFICKING IN EVERY AND ALL FORMS, THUS OBTAINING MOST PRACTICAL AND SATISFACTORY RESULTS.

NINE, DURING CONVERSATIONS I SAID THAT WE SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO BURMA TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY ON PLANS TO COOPERATE IN THE SUPPRESSION OF OPIUM CULTIVATION IN THE AREA ALONG OUR COMMON BORDER, AS WELL AS ON OTHER NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION PROBLEMS. BURMESE GOVERNMENT LEADERS WELCOMED THE CONTACT MADE AND EXPRESSED THEIR READINESS TO COOPERATE. I DELIVERED AN ADDRESS ON NARCOTICS TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, IN WHICH I EMPHASIZED THAT ILLICIT NARCOTICS ARE A MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM FACED NOT ONLY BY ONE COUNTRY, OR BY 2-3 COUNTRIES, BUT BY ALL COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THEREFORE, WE MUST CONCENTRATE

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 10864 03 OF 04 191336Z

ON DRAFTING PLANS IN FULL DETAIL. WE MUST CAREFULLY PLAN EVERY DETAIL ON ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN TO SUPPRESS PEOPLE CULTIVATING OPIUM, SMUGGLERS OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS, PERSONS OPERATIONG ILLICIT FACTORIES PRODUCING MORPHINE AND HEROIN, DRUG TRAFFICKERS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS AND BOTH SMALL AND LARGE GANGS. ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT IS NO LESS DIFFICULT IS HOW TO PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT TO CURE DRUG ADDICTS, AS WELL AS TO BE AS CERTAIN AS POSSIBLE THAT THEY WILL NOT REVERT TO DRUGS AGAIN IN THE FUTURE. IN ADDITION, PRACTICAL AND MOST CAREFUL MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN TO KEEP CLOSE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER CHEMICALS IMPORTED THAT COULD BE USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS, OR THAT COULD BE USED ILLEGALLY BY CHEMISTS. THIS IS WHY FULL COOPERATION IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SATISFACTORY RESULTS FROM SUPPRESSION OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS.

THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS I MET ALSO SUPPORT OUR VIEW THAT THE EFFORTS THAILAND IS MAKING TO WEAN HILLTRIBES, ETC., AWAY FROM OPIUM CULTIVATION BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO CULTIVATE OTHER CROPS THAT BRING THEM A MORE THAN SUFFICIENT INCOME TO KEEP BODY AND SOULD TOGETHER. THIS IS WHAT IS CALLED CROP SUBSTITUTION, AND ALL PERSONS I

DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH ARE OF THE SAME VIEW THAT THE PROJECTS WE ARE CARRYING OUT ALREADY FOR REMNANTS OF THE KUOMINTANG TROOPS AND FOR OUR HILLTRIBES IN THE NORTH, SUCH AS ENCOURAGING THEM TO CULTIVATE TEA AND VARIOUS KINDS OF FRUIT, EVEN STRAWBERRIES, WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH A GOOD INCOME. I FULLY REALIZE THAT THERE ARE STILL MANY SHORTCOMINGS IN ALL EFFORTS WE ARE MAKING, BUT THEY MUST BE REMEDIED AND OVERCOME STEP BY STEP.

WHILE I WAS IN THE U.S, IF MET ANOTHER VERY PROMINENT PERSON WHO IS A GOOD FRIEND OF THAILAND. HE IS MR. MCNAMARA, PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK. I EXCHANGED VIEWS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 BANGKO 10864 03 OF 04 191336Z

WITH HIM FOR ABOUT 35 MINUTES ON THE SITUATION IN OUR COUNTRY AND ON PROSPECTS FOR VARIOUS INVESTMENTS HERE.

MR. SANOH INAKUN, GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF THAILAND, HAD ENTRUSTED ME WITH A FEW MATTERS TO DISCUSS WITH MR. MCNAMARA, SUCH AS THE CHAO PHYA DAM PROJECT, THE ELECTRIC POWER PLANT IN PATTANI PROVINCE, AND A REQUEST FOR LOWER RATES OF INTEREST ON LOANS. AS I HAVE ALREADY SAID, MR. MCNAMARA IS A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF THAILAND. HE SAID HE FULLY REALIZES THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF OUR SPEEDING UP OUR COUNTRY'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE OF THE DANGER THREATENING US. HE, HOWEVER, REQUESTED THAT WHEN WE ASK THE WORLD BANK FOR A LOAN FOR ANY PROJECT, WE SHOULD DRAFT PLANS OF THE PROJECT IN FULL DETAIL, THUS MAKING IT EASIER TO STUDY IT. IN ADDITION, ADMINISTRATION SHOULD BE CARRIED ON IN A PROPER AND SUITABLE MANNER. FOR INSTANCE, WHEN INCREASING FEES SUCH AS FOR ELECTRICITY, THEY MUST BE GRAUDALLY INCREASED, NOT INCREASED SUDDENLY TO A HIGH LEVEL AFTER WAITING AND HESITATING AS TO WHAT DECISION OUGHT TO BE MADE. INCREASING PRICES SUDDENLY TO A HIGH LEVEL CAN EASILY CAUSE A CRISIS OR CREATE PANIC. THE COMMENTS MR. MCNAMARA MADE DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH ME DESERVE CONSIDERATION, AND THEY SHOW THAT HE IS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE THAI PEOPLE.

WE EXCHANGED VIEWS AND TALKED OF VARIOUS SUBJECTS DURING CONVERSATIONS I HAD WITH AMERICAN LEADERS, SUCH AS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH IS THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIR; NARCOTICS PROBLEMS; RELATIONS AND DIFFERENCES WITH INDO-CHINESE COUNTRIES. I EMPHASIZED THAT THAILAND IS ALWAYS READY TO BE FRIENDS WITH EVERY AND ALL COUNTRIES, NOTING THAT WE HAD ENDEAVORED TO INVITE VIETNAM TO HOLD A MEETING IN ORDER TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THAT WE ARE READY TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS AND

BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH IT. I WAS ASKED THE EXTENT OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 BANGKO 10864 03 OF 04 191336Z

COMMUNIST TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN THAILAND, WHETHER THE
REPORTS RECEIVED BY AMERICANS ARE ACCURATE OR NOT. I
EXPLAINED THAT INCIDENTS OCCUR IN BORDER AREAS AND DIS-
CUSSED OUR RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

REPORTER: WAS IT CYRUS VANCE, OR HOLBROOKE, OR SOME
OTHER PERSON WHO SAID THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS
COMMITMENTS WITH COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION?

KRIANGSAK: I WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT SO MANY DINNERS THAT
I FEEL VERY CONFUSED AS TO WHO SAID WHAT.

REPORTER: REGARDING MILITARY AID, WHO INTRODUCED IT
IN CONGRESS?

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10864 04 OF 04 191417Z
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CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 4 OF 4 BANGKOK 10864

CINCPAC FOR POLAD FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY
KRINAGSAK: WAIT A MINUTE. I AM NOT SURE WHETHER IT WAS
MENTIONED DURING MY CONVERSATION

WITH HOLBROOKE OR WITH
HABIB.

REPORTER: WHO WERE THE PERSONS WITH WHOM YOU DISCUSSED
ASIA DURING CONVERSATIONS?

KRIANGSAK: I M VERY SORRY BUT I MET AND HAD CONVERSATIONS
WITH SO MANY PERSONS THAT I AM ALL CONFUSED AND
CANNOT REMEMBER AT ONCE WHO SAID WHAT.

REPORTER: IS THIS THE FIRST STEP TAKEN IN IMPROVING
RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE U.S. ?

KRIANGSAK: THAT IS MY PERSONAL VIEW, BECAUSE SOME PERSONS
SAID THEY FELT THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE DRAWN
APART TO SOME EXTENT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BANGKO 10864 04 OF 04 191417Z

RECENTLY; THEREFORE, WE OUGHT TO
HAVE GREATER PERSON-TO-PERSON CONTACTS. THAT WOULD HELP
AMERICA HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THAILAND AND OF
THIS REGION; IT IS NOT SUFFICIENT JUST TO READ REPORTS.

IN THE FUTURE, MORE VISITS WILL BE EXCHANGED, STARTING
AT THE LEVEL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. MR. HOLBROOKE
TOLD ME HE WAS
VERY SORRY HE HAD NOT VISITED THAILAND,
THAT HE WENT ONLY AS FAR AS INDONESIA. IT WAS BECAUSE
AT THAT TIME CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF AND A NARCOTICS
DELEGATION WERE VISITING HERE. MR. HOLBROOKE APOLOGIZED
TO ME FOR NOT HAVING COME TO THAILAND ON THAT TRIP,
BECAUSE HE DID NOT WISH TO CAUSE ANY INCONVENIENCE.

HE WAS, HOWEVER, PLANNING TO SEND A HIGH OFFICIAL HERE
SOON. FRANK TALKS MUST BE SHARED BETWEEN FRIENDS,
OTHERWISE IT WOULD BE AS IF WE WERE ON TOTALLY DIFFERENT
PLANETS. I EMPHASIZED THE FRIENDSHIP THAT HAS EXISTED
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES FOR WELL OVER A CENTURY, OUR
CLOSE RELATIONS DURING WORLD WAR I, THE GOOD UNDERSTANDING
THAT HAS ALWAYS EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES,
AND HOW EVEN CLOSER RELATIONS HAD BEEN PROMOTED AFTER
WORLD WAR II. I SAID THAT AN OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTIC
OF THE THAI NATION IS THAT THAI WILL NEVER BOW THEIR
HEADS AND BECOME THE SLAVES OF ANYBODY. WE THAI CHERISH
FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE, AND EVERY AND ALL THAI
LOVE AND WORSHIP OUR KING. OUR KING ALWAYS CONCENTRATES
ON ANY ACTION OR PLAN THAT BENEFITS HIS PEOPLE, THAT
WILL CLOSELY UNITE HIS PEOPLE. FURTHERMORE, WE THAI
ARE RELIGIOUS AND HAVE A FAIRLY SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE
AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE TEACHINGS OF OUR NATIONAL

RELIGION.

REPORTER: WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAY THAT THE U.S.
ASSERTS IT WILL CONTINUE PRESERVING ITS MIGHT IN ASIA
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BANGKO 10864 04 OF 04 191417Z

AND IN THE PACIFIC?

KRIANGSAK: I MEANS THAT THE U.S. 7TH FLEET IS STILL IN
THIS REGION, THAT IT WILL CONTINUE REMAINING HERE, THAT
IT WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN, AS WELL AS THAT THE U.S. WILL
STILL REMAIN IN THE PHILIPPINES, OR IN ANY OTHER ASIAN
COUNTRIES WHICH WILL LET IT REMAIN.

REPORTER: WILL THE U.S. MAINTAIN ITS STRENGTH IN THIS
REGION AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL?

KRIANGSAK: IT HAS NOT DECIDED ANYTHING DEFINITELY AT PRESENT,
BECAUSE THE EXTENT OF ITS STRENGTH DEPENDS ON THE MOBILITY
OF ITS FORCES. WHAT I HAVE TOLD YOU TODAY REGARDING CON-
VERSATIONS I HELD DURING MY STAY IN THE U.S. ARE NOT ANY
STATEMENTS OR PROMISES MADE BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

THEY ARE ONLY VIEWS EXPRESSED DURING SOCIAL CONVERSATIONS,
THEREFORE PLEASE REFRAIN FROM WRITING UP YOUR REPORTS AS
IF THEY WERE OFFICIAL OR FORMAL STATEMENTS. WE MUST WAIT
AND SEE WHAT MOVES AND ACTIONS THE U.S. WILL TAKE IN THE
FUTURE, AS WELL AS WHAT ITS ATTITUDE WILL BE.

REPORTER: DURING CONVERSATIONS, DID YOU BRING UP HOW
RUSSIA IS EXPANDING ITS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IN THIS REGION?

KRIANGSAK: NO. I DIDN'T FEEL IT PROPER AND SUITABLE TO
MENTION SUCH A SUBJECT. (LAUGHS)

REPORTER: WHAT IS THE FEELING OR VIEW OF AMERICANS REGARD-
ING COMMUNIST PROBLEMS IN OUR COUNTRY FROM REPORTS THEY
RECEIVE?

KRIANGSAK: THEY MIGHT NOT FEEL KEEN INTEREST, ESPECIALLY
BECAUSE NEWS REPORTS MIGHT BE SEEN AS SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED.

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PAGE 04 BANGKO 10864 04 OF 04 191417Z

WHEN READING NEWS REPORTS PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS, IT LOOKS
AS IF CLASHES AND FIGHTING ARE OCCURRING HERE, AND THERE,

AND EVERYWHERE ALL THE TIME. THE FACT IS THAT WE ARE FIELDING MORE SUPPRESSION FORCES, AND SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNIST TERRORISTS IS BEING CARRIED ON IN EARNEST, THUS RESULTING IN MORE CLASHES AND FIGHTING OCCURRING EVERYWHERE. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE STRENGTH OF COMMUNIST TERRORISTS HAS INCREASED AT ALL.

REPORTER: DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT STILL ADHERE FIRMLY TO THE DEAN RUSK-THANAT KHOMAN JOINT STATEMENT?

KRIANGSAK: NOT MUCH EMPHASIS WAS PUT ON THAT JOINT STATEMENT, BECAUSE THEY HAD ALREADY SAID THAT AMERICA WILL ALWAYS HONOR ITS COMMITMENTS...AMERICAN COMMITMENTS TO US ARE ONLY UNDER THE MANILA PACT AND IN THE DEAN RUSK-THANAT KHOMAN JOINT STATEMENT. THAT IS ALL THEY SAID, SO IT IS UP TO YOU TO GUESS WHAT THEY MEANT.

REPORT: AFTER MEETING AND TALKING WITH AMERICAN KEY OFFICIALS, DO YOU FEEL FULL CONFIDENCE THAT AMERICA WILL COME TO OUR AID SHOULD WE BE IN A CRITICAL SITUATION?

KRIANGSAK: WHEREVER COULD WE FIND AS GOOD A FRIEND AS AMERICA, A COUNTRY OR NATION THAT HAS NEVER HARMED US OR BEEN OF ANY DANGER WHATSOEVER TO US* IT HAS BEEN A GOOD FRIEND OF OURS SINCE ANCIENT TIMES. LOOK AT THE AID IT HAS GIVEN US, WHICH WE HAVE IN OUR HANDS TO THIS DAY, AID IN THE FORVCOF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, ETC. WE LOVE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ARE OUR FRIENDS ALSO, AND TO NO LESS AN EXTENT, REGARDLESS OF ANY DIFFERENCE IN IDEOLOGY. WE ARE A PEACE-LOVING NATION, BUT SHOULD IT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID WAR, WE FIGHT IN DEAD EJUNEST, HERE ON THAI SOIL.

REPORTER.....

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PAGE 05 BANGKO 10864 04 OF 04 191417Z

KRIANGSAK: THEY HAD ALREADY PLANNED TO COME HERE, BUT I INVITED ALL PERSONS I MET AND HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH TO COME AND PAY A VISIT TO THAILAND. (LAUGHS) WE ARE ALWAYS MOST HAPPY TO WELCOME THEM. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL BE THE FIRST TO SEND A KEY OFFICIAL HERE.

REPORTER: WILL YOU MAKEUQN OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE CONGGTATIONS YOU HAD WITH KEY AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO THE PRIME MINISTER?

KRIANGSAK: I WENT AS A PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, NOT ON ANY OFFICIAL BUSINESS WHATSOEVER; BUT I SHOULD INFORM MY IMMEDIATE SUPERIORS OF WHAT I HEARD...

REPORTER: WHO WILL COME HERE?

KRIANGSAK: I BELIEVE THAT HE WILL BE NEXT I RANK OT
HOLBROOKE, MOST PROBABLY OAKLEY. BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER
HOLBROOKE WILL COME HIMSELF, BECAUSE HE SEEMS TO BE VERY
BUSY ALL THE TIME, FLYING TO VIET-NAM, THEN TO PARIS,
AND NEXT REPORT IS THAT HE IS IN LONDON.

REPORTER: YOUR IMPRESSION DIFFERS FROM THAT OF THE FORMER
GOVERNMENT...

KRIANGSAK: YOU SHOULD BEAR IN MIND TP T I DIDN'T MEET
THE VERY TOP MEN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CHARIMAN OF
THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. MOST OF THE PERSONS I MET AND
HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH WERE SECOND OR THIRD TO THE TOP
MEN. BUT THEY ARE ALL KEY OFFICIALS, WHO ARE IN CHARGE
OF WORK AND WHO KNOW WHAT IS WHAT.
END TEXT.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770541/aaaabiwq.tel
Line Count: 729
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 14
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Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2459910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE BY THAI DEPUTY SURPREME COMMANDER KRIANGSAK MAY16 SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT PREPARED
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, US, TH, ASEAN, (KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c2475e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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